

I must say, I was extremely pleased to note President Bush's recent remarks to the Environmental Youth Award winners about environmental policy. As you know, the President stated that decisions regarding environmental matters in his Administration would be, and I quote, "based upon sound science, not some environmental fad or what may sound good—that we're going to rely on the best evidence before we decide [on policy]."

After representing the Congress at two Conferences of the Parties (COP) to Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), as well as having chaired several hearings in the Congress about the sustainable use or renewable resources on the international level, I know the United States is certainly a nation that supports the consumptive use of renewable wildlife and marine resources under scientific management.

As such, I respectfully request that any future policy regarding various species—whether the subject species are elephants, whales, turtles, or trees—be based on sound science and the legal ramifications of the Uruguay Round Agreements of GATT.

I appreciate your attention to this request, and I look forward to your response. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or comments.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 3, 2001.

Hon. DON EVANS,
Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR SECRETARY EVANS: I am writing to express my strong support for the need for science to be the fundamental guide in United States participation in international conservation commitments as legally recognized under the Uruguay Round Agreements of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Unfortunately, the United States policy under the former-Clinton administration acted contrary to this legal concept under the tenets of the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling (ICRW). Specifically, it did so by continued opposition and obstructionist positions on the resumption of limited and managed whaling by island and coastal nations.

Although it is true that there was over exploitation of certain whale stocks in the 18th and 19th centuries for commercial oil products, this is not the case today. In fact, no whale stocks were ever threatened by whale harvests for human food consumption. The Scientific Committee of the governing body of the ICRW and the International Whaling Commission (IWC) has found that limited harvests would have no adverse impact on population stocks.

However, in the past, the United States and other nations have consistently opposed the resumption of limited whaling on what amounts to purely a political agenda. For instance, the United States supported the adoption of the Southern Ocean Sanctuary for whales without any scientific basis for such a position. Further, the United States is supporting the adoption of a Pacific Ocean Sanctuary where there is no scientific basis for the establishment of such a sanctuary. Even after the Bush administration took office, the Department of State has opposed legal trade in whale products between Norway and Japan. I would sincerely urge the Bush administration to carefully review the United States policy in terms of science and law.

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ERADICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS ON A WORLD-WIDE BASIS

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, as you know, infectious diseases are needlessly killing millions of people every year and cost the global community billions in healthcare costs and lost revenue. Diseases such as Tuberculosis (TB) are on the rise around the world, and due to their infectious properties, are threatening the health and welfare of Americans. TB cannot be stopped at our national borders and the only way to eliminate TB here at home is to control it abroad. In fact, according to the National Intelligence Council, new and re-emerging infectious diseases will pose a rising global health threat and will complicate U.S. and global security over the next twenty years. We must take action to address these dangers now.

I feel strongly that Congress should make a significant investment in low-cost, high-impact programs like TB control. Mr. Speaker for just \$20 to \$100 invested in a quality TB program, a life can be saved. This is one of the most cost-effective health interventions available today. In FY2001, Congress provided \$60 million for international TB control, a solid step towards addressing this killer. More must be done this year. Fifteen million people in the U.S. are infected with the TB bacteria, and nearly two million people perish world-wide each year. In addition, eight million people are afflicted with this disease annually and every second of every day, someone in the world is infected with the disease.

TB is the biggest killer of people with AIDS, and TB rates have skyrocketed in sub-Saharan Africa due to the AIDS/TB co-epidemics. Direct Observed Therapy treatment or "Dots" is one of the most cost-effective ways to pro-

long and improve the lives of people with HIV. As we increase resources for HIV and AIDS, it makes sense to increase funding for TB control as well.

If we do not act promptly, new deadly drug-resistant strains of TB and rising HIV rates will make TB very difficult or impossible to control. I have asked that we provide \$200 million in the FY2002 foreign aid budget for the international TB control program.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of Congress from a international borer city, I know the importance of combining TB at our borders. Now is the time to combat tuberculosis and eradicate this horrible disease before it begins more impacting our population.

HONORING METRO SCHOOLS DIRECTOR, DR. BILL M. WISE, ON THE OCCASION OF HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

HON. BOB CLEMENT

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 22, 2001

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Metro Schools Director Dr. Bill M. Wise on the occasion of his retirement from the Metropolitan/Davidson County/Nashville, Tennessee school system after thirty-one years of outstanding service to students, teachers, and personnel.

Dr. Wise is to be commended for the impact he has made on the local, state, and national levels through his tireless work to achieve unity during legal battles over court-ordered desegregation busing. His leadership proved pivotal in the successful resolution of this important matter. Leaders from across the Nation have sought his advice and expertise in this area and he has offered consultations and hope in times of crisis to schools in Texas, South Carolina, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, North Carolina, and Alabama. Wise is also recognized nationally for his successful management skills and expertise in school facilities management.

His philosophy has always focused on what is best for students and student achievement including improving physical conditions in school facilities and fostering morale. Because of his strong leadership skills combined with character and courage, Wise's efforts have proven extremely fruitful.

A native Tennessean, Bill Wise was educated at the University of North Alabama in Florence, where he received a Bachelor of Science in 1963, and a Master's Degree in 1965. He continued his education at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, earning a Doctorate of Education in 1970.

Wise began his career as an Alabama school teacher in 1963 working for the Florence City School system and later moving to the university level as an instructor and coach at the University of North Alabama until 1968.

After a two-year stint as a Ford Foundation Fellow at the University of Tennessee, Wise was named Assistant Superintendent for the Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Public School System in 1970. He was promoted to Deputy Superintendent, where he served from